

the safety area of this bill. And how do we ensure that the recommendations made by these safety councils are followed? Well, that's what this particular proposal really deals with, the amendment. Now, when we talk about average wage of an employee in the State of Nebraska, it's really tough to get a handle on that, because you think of a union member. We talked about the AFL-CIO, and they are in support of the bill, and that their wages, I assume, are over that level. I don't know, I haven't seen any statistics on that. But they represent union membership in this state, I believe, under the AFL-CIO is approximately 7...6 to 7 percent of the workforce in the state, a rather small amount in comparison to the entire workforce in this state. So it's important to understand how many employees are not affected or benefitted under this particular proposal. Now, there was a study that's done on an annual basis by the Nebraska Department of Labor. In the 1992 Nebraska survey of average hourly, weekly wages, this is a statewide study, it focuses in on a number of cities and does an analyzation of jobs that are available in these different cities throughout the state. And what they look to is the occupational category, the lowest wage that is offered for employment, the average wage, as well as the highest wage, and they look to the number of openings that are available,...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR ABBODD: ...both at a full-time and a part-time place of employment. Now, the cities that they surveyed are not just Omaha and Lincoln, but they are a wide range of cities. I'll cite them, Chadron, Alliance, Scottsbluff, Sidney, North Platte, Lexington, McCook, Kearney, Holdrege, Hastings, Grand Island, Columbus, Norfolk, Fremont, Lincoln, and Omaha, Beatrice, Nebraska City and Falls City. So they had a broad survey of determinations as to the occupations, jobs that are open throughout the state. Now, in going through this list, it's a rather sizable list, it's about three pag...two pages, and I'm not going to read through them, but it listed all the statewide job openings, and it listed the lowest average weekly wage or the average lowest wage offered, the average and the highest. For example, animal service they describe as an occupation, the lowest wage offered was \$5 an hour, the average was \$5 an hour, and the highest...

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.